GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:407
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006
CONDITION OF RAILWAY BRIDGES
Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the Commission of Railway Safety had investigated the matter relating to collapse of Kadalundi bridge in 2001;

(b) If so, the details of recommendations made by the Commission thereof;

(c) Whether the Railways had started a pilot project to strengthen old bridges particularly those bridges which are more than 50 years old;

(d) If so, the details of those bridges which have been taken up under the said project;

(e) Whether the progress of the project is very slow;

(f) If so, the reasons therefor; and (g) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to replace/renovate these bridges and other safety measures taken for the safety of passengers?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION No.407 BY DR. K. DHANARAJU AND SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.08.2006 REGARDING CONDITION OF RAILWAY BRIDGES.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety conducted statutory inquiry into this accident. In his Final Report, he had made 8 recommendations pertaining to upkeep, replacement/renovation and underwater examination of the bridges, planning for rehabilitation and rebuilding of distressed bridges, and inspection and maintenance of coaches and wagons.

(c) No, Sir. No pilot project has been taken up for strengthening of all bridges over 50 years of age. The life of the bridge is not based on its age but on its physical condition as ascertained by inspections. Those bridges which require repair/rehabilitation are taken up on a programmed basis.

(d) to (f): Does not arise.

(g): Railways have a well laid down system of multi-tier annual inspection of bridges. As a result of these inspections, certain bridges are taken up for repair & rehabilitation on a programmed basis. If required suitable speed restrictions are imposed on such bridges till the repair/rehabilitation is carried out. Year-wise repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges during the last 5 years is given as below:-

Year	No. of Bridges Repaired/Rehabilitated	Expenditure (Rs. in cr.)
2001-02	725	108.10
2002-03	1151	199.10
2003-04	1563	234.71
2004-05	1579	390.26
2005-06	1431	410.59